be no compounding of the interest outstanding on the short-term loans in such cases, and in respect of current dues in default, no penal interest will be charged. Thus, in view of the already existing liberal facilities as per Reserve Bank of India's guidelines to banks in respect of loan cases affected by natural calamities—the Reserve Bank of India has reported that it will not be possible to write off the loans as such, as this would undermine the viability of the banking system on the one hand and adversely hamper the financial discipline among the borrowers on the other.

Non-resident Indians investments in A. P.

1921. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is the total investment made by the non-resident Indians in Andhra Pradesh in 1984, 1985, 1986 and in 1987 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): Data on NRI Investments is not maintained on a State-wise basis and hence it is not possible to provide the desired information.

Messengers working in regonal rural Banks for more than 240 days

1922. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily wage Messengers or Messenger-cum-Sweepers working in the Regional Rural Banks for more than 240 days;

(b) the number of them whose services have been regularised so far in terms of Industrial Dispute Act;

(c) whether it is a fact that in many Regional Rural Banks like Gorakhpur, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Koraput Panchabati, Messengers working continuously for more than three years have been dismissed on different pleas;

(d) whether the Government of India is going to liberalise the policy of regularisation of such existing including those retrenched Messengers; and

(e) if so, what is the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by NABARD in respect of 179 reporting Regional Rural Banks there were 11,695 messengers in these banks. Of them 638 have been regularised in terms of instructions issued by Government in October, 1984.

(c) The existing data reporting system does not yield information on dismissals made by individual Regional Rural Banks.

(d) and (e) It has been decided to liberalise the policy of regularisation of daily waged messengers. In terms of the decision taken by Government, regular messengers will be appointed in all Regional Rural Bank branches having business of Rs. 30 lakhs and above, in the payscale applicable to the Group D post in the concerned State Government. The daily waged messengers who do not get regularised will be made Part-time regular messengers and will be entitled to draw 50 percent of the wages admissible to a regular messenger. They will however get an option to continue to draw wages at the existing rate.

Pay scale of area Manager of RRB

1923. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance in an order issued in 1984 informed Regional Rural Banks that the scale of pay for Area Manager would be decided soon;

(b) if so, why the pay-scale of Area Managers of Regional Rural Banks have not been settled even after two years; and

(c) by when the pay scales are likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) after consultation with the Government issued instructions in December, 1984 prescribing *inter-alia* the norms for the creation of posts of Area/Senior Managers in the Regional Rural Banks. These managers were allowed to draw a special pay of Rs. 75/- p.m. in addition to the grade pay of the officer concerned. It has now been decided to pay a special pay at the rate of 10 per cent of the basic pay of the incumbents to the post of Area/Senior Managers with effect from 1st January, 1987. Necessary instructions have also been issued in this behalf by NABARD.

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks

1924. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to merge Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): No, Sir. Government are of the view that Regional Rural Banks should continue to function as separate entities for catering to the credit requirements of small borrowers.

Armed Guards to vulnerable branches of Regional Rural Banks

1925. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the Regional Rural Banks to identify vulnerable branches and arrange for arm-guards at the cost of Sponsoring Bank; and

(b) if so, how many pockets (Regional Rural Banks-wise) have so far been identified and at how many pockets such arm-guards have been placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Regional Rural Banks were advised by the Government in July, 1985 to identify branches located in high risk and disturbance prone pockets in consultation with concerned Sponsor Banks and request the State Governments for providing necessary security arrangements. The State Governments in their capacity of share holders in the equity of RRBs are expected to render this service free of cost in case where any State Government insists on levying of charges for services rendered, the Sponsor Banks should bear the same.

(b) The present data reporting system does not generate the information sought for. Moreover, the time and energy likely to be spent in collecting such information may not be commensurate with the objective to be achieved.

Special increment for not joining strike to employees of Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank

1926. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that management of Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank allowed special increment to those who did not join the strike at the call given by All India Rural Bank Employees Association recently;

(b) whether there is any such provision in service rules; and

(c) whether Government do not consider it an unfair labour practice?